

Pennsylvania State legislature who passed recently. I am referring to former State Speaker of the House Matthew Ryan whose 41-year extraordinary career, including repeated service as Speaker of the House beginning in 1981, is an extraordinary testament to how so much of our legislative talent and our best legal minds are still concentrated in our State legislatures.

I worked for the State House. I knew Speaker Ryan. I knew what an extraordinary individual he was and how, at a time when affiliation with parties is something that has lost public favor, he was one of the finest products of the Delaware County Republican organization, a great friend, an individual who absolutely dominated the State House by the force of his mind and the force of his personality and led it in very positive directions, a man who was far more bipartisan than the reputation of that institution but always a strong Republican and always a strong advocate of creating jobs and of welfare reform. We will miss him dearly. I hope his memory and his example will long be with us.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the Chair will postpone further proceedings today on motions to suspend the rules on which a recorded vote or the yeas and nays are ordered, or on which the vote is objected to under clause 6 of rule XX.

Record votes on postponed questions will be taken after 6:30 p.m. today.

CONVEYANCE OF DECOMMISSIONED COAST GUARD CUTTER

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 517) to direct the Commandant of the Coast Guard to convey the Coast Guard Cutter *Bramble*, upon its scheduled decommissioning, to the Port Huron Museum of Arts and History located in Port Huron, Michigan, for use for education and historical display, as amended.

The Clerk read as follows:

H.R. 517

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. CONVEYANCE OF DECOMMISSIONED COAST GUARD CUTTERS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Commandant of the Coast Guard shall convey all right, title, and interest of the United States in and to a vessel described in subsection (b) to the person designated in subsection (b) with respect to the vessel (in this section referred to as the “recipient”), without consideration, if the person complies with the conditions under subsection (c).

(b) VESSELS DESCRIBED.—The vessels referred to in subsection (a) are the following:

(1) The Coast Guard Cutter BRAMBLE, to be conveyed to the Port Huron Museum of Arts and History (a nonprofit corporation under the laws of the State of Michigan), located in Port Huron, Michigan.

(2) The Coast Guard Cutter PLANETREE, to be conveyed to Jewish Life (a nonprofit corporation under the laws of the State of California), located in Sherman Oaks, California.

(c) CONDITIONS.—As a condition of any conveyance of a vessel under subsection (a), the Commandant shall require the recipient to—

(1) agree—

(A) to use the vessel for purposes of education and historical display;

(B) not to use the vessel for commercial transportation purposes;

(C) to make the vessel available to the United States Government if needed for use by the Commandant in time of war or a national emergency; and

(D) to hold the Government harmless for any claims arising from exposure to hazardous materials, including asbestos and polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs), after conveyance of the vessel, except for claims arising from use of the vessel by the Government under subparagraph (C);

(2) have funds available that will be committed to operate and maintain the vessel conveyed in good working condition—

(A) in the form of cash, liquid assets, or a written loan commitment; and

(B) in an amount of at least \$700,000; and

(3) agree to any other conditions the Commandant considers appropriate.

(d) MAINTENANCE AND DELIVERY OF VESSEL.—Prior to conveyance of a vessel under this section, the Commandant shall, to the extent practical, and subject to other Coast Guard mission requirements, make every effort to maintain the integrity of the vessel and its equipment until the time of delivery. The Commandant shall deliver a vessel conveyed under this section at the place where the vessel is located, in its present condition, and without cost to the Government. The conveyance of a vessel under this section shall not be considered a distribution in commerce for purposes of section 6(e) of Public Law 94-469 (15 U.S.C. 2605(e)).

(e) OTHER EXCESS EQUIPMENT.—The Commandant may convey to the recipient of a vessel under this section any excess equipment or parts from other decommissioned Coast Guard vessels for use to enhance the vessel's operability and function as an historical display.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. BURGESS) and the gentleman from Maine (Mr. MICHAUD) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Texas (Mr. BURGESS).

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

H.R. 517 conveys the Coast Guard Cutter *Bramble* to the Port Huron Museum of Arts and History located in Port Huron, Michigan, for use for education and historical display. The amendment we are considering also conveys the Coast Guard Cutter *Planetree* to Jewish Life, a nonprofit corporation that promotes the understanding of Jewish culture and history. The *Bramble* is completing a nearly 60-year-long career, performing the same tasks of buoy tending, ice breaking, search and rescue and law enforcement for which she was commissioned in 1944.

One of 39 original *Iris* Class 180-foot seagoing buoy tenders built in Duluth, Minnesota, the *Bramble* has served admirably all over the United States, including Alaska, Hawaii, and Puerto

Rico. The Cutter *Bramble* has served on the Great Lakes since 1962 and has been homeported in Port Huron since 1975. With new technology evolving, the door has opened for a new class of buoy tenders to replace the 180-foot buoy tenders. The 225-foot Coast Guard Cutter *Hollyhock* will replace the *Bramble*, which will be decommissioned on May 22, 2003. The Cutter *Hollyhock* will be homeported in Port Huron.

Although the *Bramble* has reached the end of her service life to the Coast Guard, I can think of no better mission that she can continue to perform than public service. Serving as an educational and historical platform, she will remain a vital link to Port Huron's rich maritime heritage.

The Cutter *Planetree*, a 180-foot seagoing buoy tender commissioned in 1943, also has a long history of excellent service to the Coast Guard and to this Nation. She served in World War II and the Korean and Vietnam wars. In addition to operating from ports in Guam, the Great Lakes and throughout the Pacific Northwest, the *Planetree* made her Alaska debut in 1974 when she was transferred to Juneau. Decommissioned in 1999 in her homeport of Ketchikan, the *Planetree* currently is berthed in the San Francisco area where she was retired to a naval vessel graveyard. The *Planetree* was replaced by the new 175-foot buoy tender *Anthony Petit*. This legislation will make it possible for *Planetree* to resume her public service mission by serving as a symbolic ship honoring the original 66 exodus ships, their crew members, and the 77,000 Holocaust survivors those vessels carried to Israel.

This legislation dealing with the *Bramble* was introduced by the gentlewoman from Michigan (Mrs. MILLER) and, as it is being considered today, also includes the *Planetree* provision requested by the gentleman from California (Mr. BERMAN). This bill allows the public to continue to receive benefits from these vessels after their services are no longer required by the Coast Guard.

I urge all Members to vote for this important legislation.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. MICHAUD. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 517, a bill to authorize the conveyance of two Coast Guard cutters to nonprofit organizations so they can use them for education and historic displays.

The 180-foot buoy tender *Bramble* was commissioned in 1944 and served our Nation until its decommissioning on May 22, 2002. The *Bramble* has sailed the waters from Alaska and Hawaii to Puerto Rico. Since 1962, she has served on the Great Lakes and has been homeported in Port Huron, Michigan, since 1975.

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H.R. 517 will authorize the conveyance of *Bramble* to the Port Huron Museum of Arts and History where she